

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information processing apparatus which segments a surface of a sheet into a plurality of areas and controls layout of print data in the respective segmented areas,
5 comprising:
 - print setting means for making a print setting;
 - determination means for determining whether a surface to an imposition process is an upper or lower surface;
 - page order setting means for setting page orders on
10 the upper and lower surfaces which match each other in accordance with the determination result; and
 - imposition process means for performing an imposition process on the basis of the set page orders.
2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said
15 determination means automatically determines the upper or lower surface in 2 sided printing.
3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said print setting means has designation means for allowing a user to designate processing for the upper or lower
20 surface, and
 - said determination means performs determination on the basis of user designation by said designation means.
4. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said
designations means performs designation through an interface
25 that allows designation of an upper or lower surface without mediacy of a GUI.
5. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when a

layout that is always uniquely determined by a specific type of sheet is to be made, and the specific type of sheet is designated, a print setting GUI is controlled so as not to make any setting that influences the layout.

5 6. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising security processing means for performing security processing and charging upon designation of the specific type of sheet.

7. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the
10 specific type of sheet is a four-postcard sheet having postcards arranged in a 2 x 2 matrix.

8. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said print setting means can designate that part of a sheet has already been used, and

15 said page order setting means makes a setting to set only remaining areas as layout targets on the basis of information of the used area designated by said print setting means.

9. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said page
20 order setting means sets remaining areas of a first sheet as layout targets by using information of a used area designated by said print setting means, and sets all areas of a second and subsequent sheets as layout targets.

10. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising
25 spool means for, before generating print data to be transmitted to a printer, temporarily storing the print data in an intermediate code form of a data form different from

a data form of the print data, despool means for generating the print data to be transmitted to the printer from the data temporarily stored in the intermediate code form, and means for generating a control command to the printer.

- 5 11. A print control method for an information processing apparatus which segments a surface of a sheet into a plurality of areas and controls layout of print data in the respective segmented areas, comprising:

- the print setting step of making a print setting;
10 the determination step of determining whether a surface to an imposition process is an upper or lower surface;
the page order setting step of setting page orders on the upper and lower surfaces which match each other in accordance with the determination result; and
15 the imposition process step of performing an imposition process on the basis of the set page orders.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein in the determination step, the upper or lower surface is automatically determined in 2 sided printing.

- 20 13. The method according to claim 11, wherein the print setting step has the designation step of allowing a user to designate processing for the upper or lower surface, and

in the determination step, determination is performed
25 on the basis of user designation in the designation step.

14. The method according to claim 13, wherein in the designation step, designation is performed through an

interface that allows designation of an upper or lower surface without mediacy of a GUI.

15. The method according to claim 11, wherein when a layout that is always uniquely determined by a specific type of sheet is to be made, and the specific type of sheet is designated, a print setting GUI is controlled so as not to make any setting that influences the layout.

16. The method according to claim 11, further comprising the security processing step of performing security processing and charging upon designation of the specific type of sheet.

17. The method according to claim 11, wherein the specific type of sheet is a four-postcard sheet having postcards arranged in a 2 x 2 matrix.

15 18. The method according to claim 11, wherein in the print setting step, it can be designated that part of a sheet has already been used, and

in the page order setting step, a setting is made to set only remaining areas as layout targets on the basis of information of the used area designated in the print setting step.

19. The method according to claim 18, wherein in the page order setting step, remaining areas of a first sheet are set as layout targets by using information of a used area designated in the print setting step, and all areas of a second and subsequent sheets are set as layout targets.

20. The method according to claim 11, further comprising

21. A computer-readable storage medium storing a program
for a print control method for an information processing
10 apparatus which segments a surface of a sheet into a plurality
of areas and controls layout of print data in the respective
segmented areas, the program including:

a module for generating a control command to a printer;
a print setting module for making a print setting;
15 a determination module for determining whether a
surface to an imposition process is an upper or lower surface;
a page order setting module for setting page orders
on the upper and lower surfaces which match each other in
accordance with the determination result; and

20 an imposition process module for performing an
imposition process on the basis of the set page orders.

22. The medium according to claim 21, wherein the determination module automatically determines the upper or lower surface in 2 sided printing.

25 23. The medium according to claim 21, wherein
 the print setting module has a designation module for
 allowing a user to designate processing for the upper or lower

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surface, and

the determination module determines on the basis of user designation by the designation module.

24. The medium according to claim 23, wherein the
5 designation module performs designation through an interface that allows designation of an upper or lower surface without mediacy of a GUI.

25. The medium according to claim 21, wherein when a layout
10 that is always uniquely determined by a specific type of sheet is to be made, and the specific type of sheet is designated, a print setting GUI is controlled so as not to make any setting that influences the layout.

26. The medium according to claim 21, further comprising
15 a security processing module for performing security processing and charging upon designation of the specific type of sheet.

27. The medium according to claim 21, wherein the specific
type of sheet is a four-postcard sheet having postcards arranged in a 2 x 2 matrix.

20 28. The medium according to claim 21, wherein the print setting module can designate that part of a sheet has already been used, and

the page order setting module makes a setting to set
only remaining areas as layout targets on the basis of
25 information of the used area designated by the print setting module.

29. The medium according to claim 28, wherein the page

order setting module sets remaining areas of a first sheet as layout targets by using information of a used area designated by the print setting module, and sets all areas of a second and subsequent sheets as layout targets.

5 30. The medium according to claim 21, further comprising:
a spool module for, before generating print data to be transmitted to a printer, temporarily storing the print data in an intermediate code form of a data form different from a data form of the print data; and

10 a despool module for generating the print data to be transmitted to the printer from the data temporarily stored in the intermediate code form.

31. A program for a print control program for an information processing apparatus which segments a surface
15 of a sheet into a plurality of areas and controls layout of print data in the respective segmented areas, the program causing a computer to execute

the step of generating a control command to a printer;
the print setting step of making a print setting;
20 the determination step of determining whether a surface to an imposition process is an upper or lower surface;
the page order setting step of setting page orders on the upper and lower surfaces which match each other in accordance with the determination result; and

25 the imposition process step of performing an imposition process on the basis of the set page orders.

32. The program according to claim 31, wherein in the

determination step, the upper or lower surface is automatically determined in 2 sided printing.

33. The program according to claim 31, wherein

the print setting step has the designation step of
5 allowing a user to designate processing for the upper or lower surface, and

in the determination step, determination is performed on the basis of user designation in the designation step.

34. The program according to claim 33, wherein in the
10 designation step, designation is performed through an interface that allows designation of an upper or lower surface without mediacy of a GUI.

35. The program according to claim 31, wherein when a layout that is always uniquely determined by a specific type
15 of sheet is to be made, and the specific type of sheet is designated, a print setting GUI is controlled so as not to make any setting that influences the layout.

36. The program according to claim 31, further comprising
20 the security processing step of performing security processing and charging upon designation of the specific type of sheet.

37. The program according to claim 31, wherein the specific type of sheet is a four-postcard sheet having postcards arranged in a 2 x 2 matrix.

25 38. The program according to claim 31, wherein in the print setting step, it can be designated that part of a sheet has already been used, and

in the page order setting step, a setting is made to set only remaining areas as layout targets on the basis of information of the used area designated in the print setting step.

- 5 39. The program according to claim 38, wherein in the page order setting step, remaining areas of a first sheet are set as layout targets by using information of a used area designated in the print setting step, and all areas of a second and subsequent sheets are set as layout targets.

- 10 40. The program according to claim 31, wherein the program further causes the computer to execute

- the spool step of, before generating print data to be transmitted to a printer, temporarily storing the print data in an intermediate code form of a data form different from
15 a data form of the print data, and

the despool step of generating the print data to be transmitted to the printer from the data temporarily stored in the intermediate code form.